

was impossible. Gene and Ruth Ann, his wife, provided their child with the most love, care and attention ever given to a child. John Mark was born during an era where a child with such a disability was often institutionalized. The Stallings included John Mark in every decision—family-wise or career-wise, and John Mark was a fixture at every game and practice of all his father's teams. One of Gene's greatest legacies will be the contributions that he and his family made to families with special needs' children.

In recognition of his humanitarian efforts, Gene received the Dallas Father of the Year Award, the National Boys Club Alumni of the Year Award, Arthritis Humanitarian Award of Alabama, Humanitarian Award of the Lion's Club of Alabama, and the Paris Boys Club Wall of Honor. The Stallings family was honored by the Tuscaloosa Association of Retarded Citizens as the Family of the Year. Their efforts and generosity toward the Rise program, a program which aids developmentally disabled toddlers for entry into public school and interaction with non-disabled students, were again acknowledged with the naming of the Stallings Building on the Alabama campus. In addition, Gene wrote a book about his son, John Mark.

Gene has also served as a valued and esteemed member of President George W. Bush's Commission on Intellectual Disability, the Board of Abilene Christian University, the Tandy Brand Corporation, People's National Bank of Paris, Paris Regional Medical Center, Disability Resources, the Texas Rangers Law Enforcement Association, the Great Southern Wood Corporation, and the Boys and Girls Club of Paris, Texas. In 2005, Governor Rick Perry appointed him to the Texas A&M Board of Regents, where he served as a member of the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Buildings and Physical Plant, and the Committee on Campus Art and Aesthetic. An additional responsibility as a member of the Board of Regents is his place as the special athletic liaison to the A&M Systems Members.

As the 111th Congress adjourns this week, I am honored to recognize the contributions of this great football coach and great American—Gene Stallings.

REPRESENTATIVE IKE SKELTON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

RIGID AEROSHELL VARIABLE BUOYANCY AIR VEHICLE—ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATOR

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the Force Transformation Directorate, within the Director, Defense Research and Engineering (DDR&E) Office, is developing an advanced, variable buoyancy, rigid-structure air vehicle with vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) capability and the ability to hover, all while operating at maximum weight. Known as the Pelican project, this effort has the potential to provide for airship technology capable of moving large payloads and brigade-sized units to a point of need.

Pelican could assist in establishing a new inter/intra-theater capability that could greatly increase heavy cargo lift capability and effectiveness, reduce the logistics footprint in theater, provide low cost and "green" cargo carriage, and could establish a new disaster relief capability.

The recent Haiti relief operation demonstrates the importance of this capability. Aircraft dependent on runways were initially turned away because there was insufficient ramp space. A VTOL heavy lift transport, requiring little support infrastructure, would have been immune to this problem. The new VTOL air-lift capability can reduce our dependence on foreign airbases and ports, as well as the effectiveness of anti-access strategies employed by our adversaries.

I encourage the Department to maintain development activities and to initiate plans for a capable 60 ton payload vehicle, ensuring close coordination and cooperation with the Air Force, Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command. I further recommend that this effort be made a program of record beginning in Fiscal Year 2013.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JAMES MELTON STEELE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of James Melton Steele. Mr. Steele, known affectionately as "Jim" to his friends, family and members of the North Texas community was passionate for the Northwest Independent School District and its students. His memory and commitment to NWISD are appropriately commemorated with the Dedication of the James M. Steele Accelerated High School, the only school of its type in Texas, designed to provide students an alternative venue to complete high school at an accelerated pace.

Mr. Steele's early life allowed him to know both north Texas and west Texas as home. His family followed his father's railroad employment with positions in both the Fort Worth area and Baird, Texas where he attended school until 8th grade. His family returned to north Texas where he attended the Birdville School District and met Johnnie, who was the love of his life and eventually became his wife and mother to their two sons, Bruce and Brian.

James attended Arlington State College where he majored in business administration and developed a desire through his early work experiences to own his own business. He built and operated a concrete plant in Haltom City and later bought a small country store in Roanoke which eventually became Steele's Affiliated Country Market.

The Steele's raised their family in Roanoke and were active community members as he helped with sports activities and Johnnie volunteered to help the teachers at Roanoke Elementary. Mrs. Steele eventually made a career of education in NWISD and taught for 24 years before retiring from Gene Pike Middle School. As members of Roanoke Church of Christ, Byron Nelson encouraged Mr. Steele to become an Elder.

Mr. Steele's leadership and commitment led to encouragement from parents within the Northwest ISD to run for the school board. He became a member of the NWISD Board in 1975, serving as a Trustee for nine years, including his term as board president.

The Steeles' commitment to NWISD is a family legacy as both of their sons and their grandchildren, Chris and Tara, graduated from Northwest High School. Bryson James Steele, one of three great-grandchildren, currently attends Kay Granger Elementary. The Steeles' other two great-grandchildren, Caroline Doshier and Brayden Steele, will eventually attend school at NWISD.

It is with great honor that I rise today to recognize James M. Steele and his commitment to Northwest Independent School District. I am honored to represent Northwest ISD, the town of Roanoke and the Steele family in the United States Congress.

HONORING ACHIEVEMENTS OF AMBASSADOR RICHARD HOLBROOKE

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN-

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, this week, the world lost a legendary diplomatic figure and master peace negotiator. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke may no longer be with us, but his presence is timeless, as he leaves behind the invaluable lessons of his life's work.

Among his many accomplishments as statesman and steadfast advocate for greater stability throughout the world, Ambassador Holbrooke's most famous contribution to the mission of global peace was his role as chief architect of the Dayton Peace Accords, ending more than three years of bloody war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Up against deep-seated multi ethnic and religious divisions, a war-torn economy, and lacking government infrastructure, his unwavering commitment to establishing a peace worthy of America's name was fundamental to leading the accords to successful resolution.

As the United States considers a new way forward to reinvigorate Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, Ambassador Holbrooke's memory serves as a powerful reminder of what can be achieved with persistent engagement, pragmatic diplomacy, and impassioned belief—not only in the necessity for resolution, but also in the ability for differing peoples to come together in the name of a common humanity.

The United States remains unwaveringly committed to ensuring Israeli security and its future as a Jewish democratic state, both as a moral imperative and as a crucial strategic relationship. While we have worked to maximize Israel's security, through military partnership and sanctions aimed to prevent Iranian nuclear capabilities, the fact remains, however, that Arab-Israeli tensions pose very real threats to Israeli and regional stability. Now is the time to ever more fervently pursue resolution to the issues that stand in the way of peace: borders, security, settlements, refugees, and Jerusalem.

As Founder and Co-Chair of the American Engagement Caucus, I firmly believe that U.S. leadership is paramount to the success of peace negotiations, and we must make a